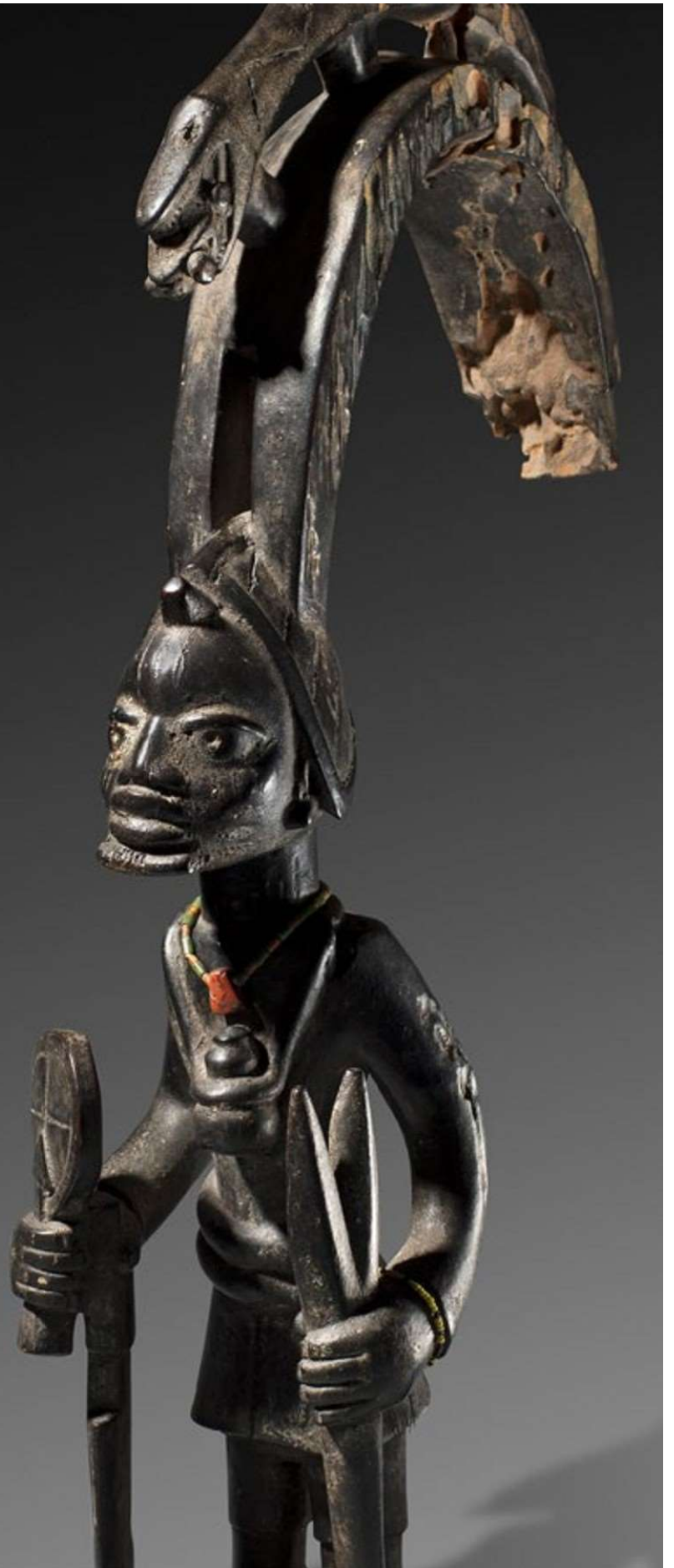
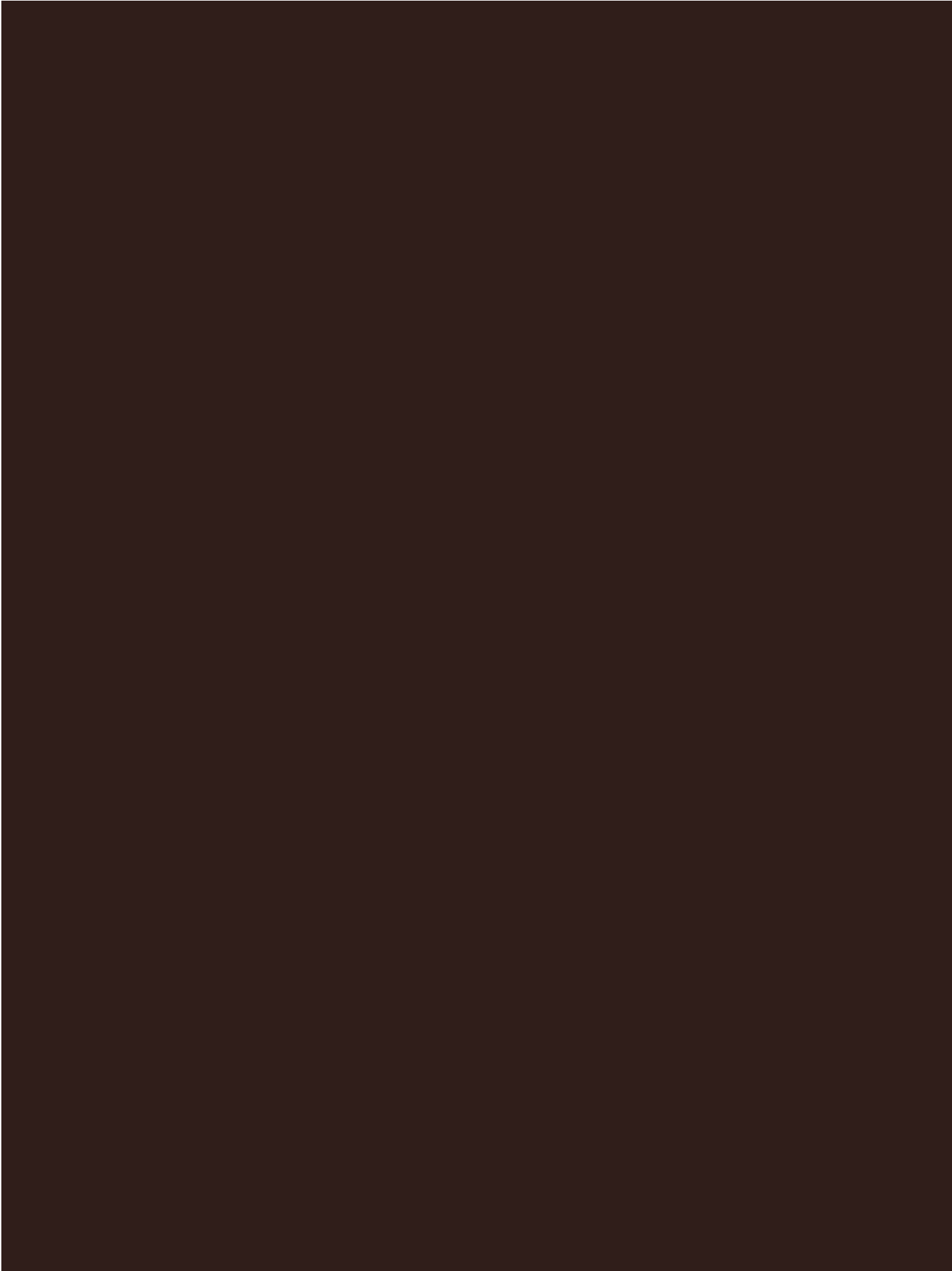


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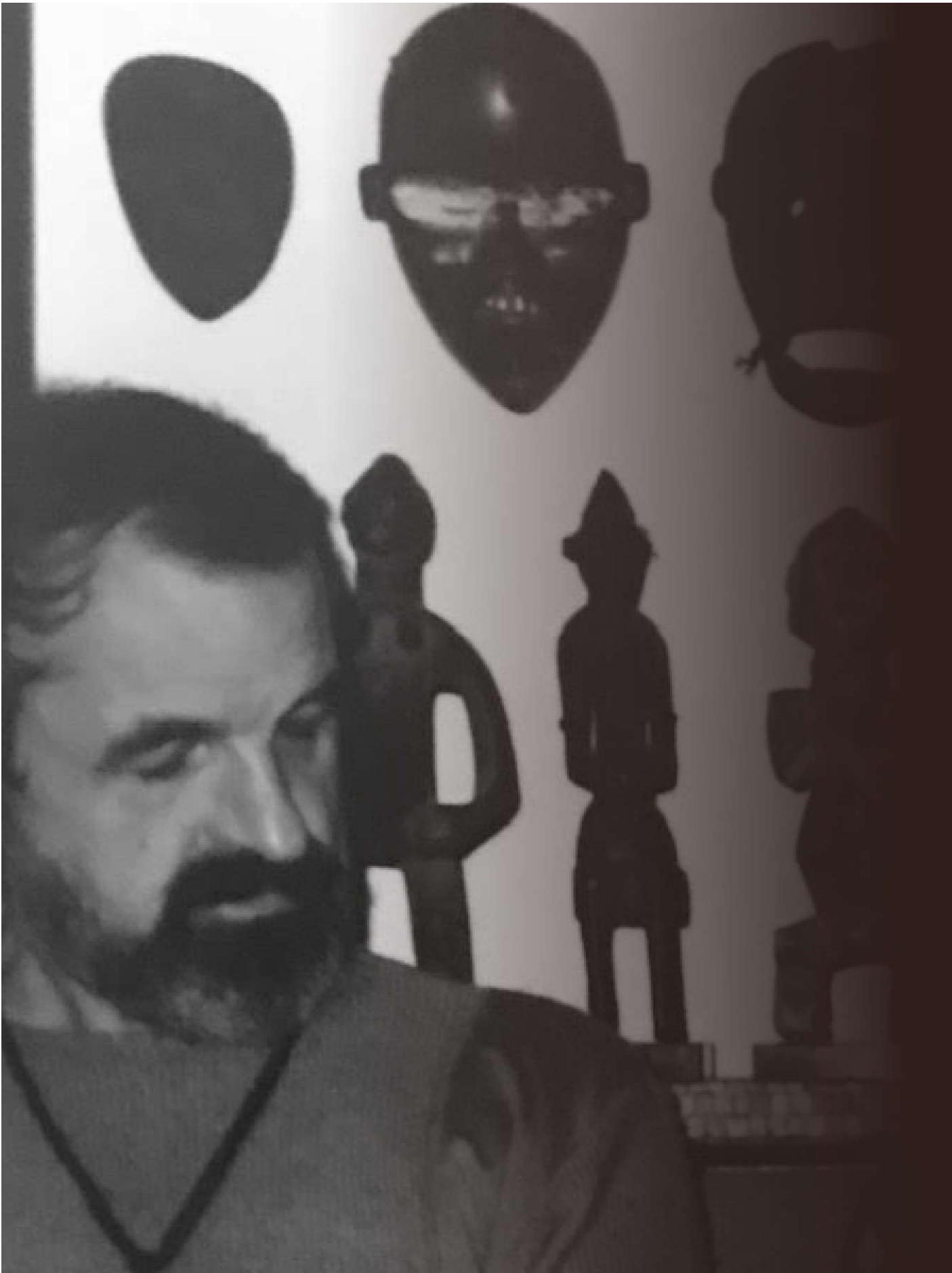




IMAGINAIRE**TRIBAL**2023



David Serra
Fine Tribal Art



HELMUT & MARIANNE ZIMMER COLLECTION

Helmut Zimmer began collecting African art at a very young age in the 1950s. He started with weapons which led to probably the most comprehensive collection of African weapons in Switzerland. In these early days he met his future wife Marianne, who loyally shared his passion for the rest of his life.

The Zimmer's collecting frenzy quickly became known and their small apartment in Zurich turned into a popular meeting place for collectors, dealers and museum people from Switzerland and abroad. They were not only dedicated collectors but also hospitable hosts enjoying to share their love for African art. Helmut was a humble and generous person, always helpful and eager to lend his objects for exhibitions to museums around the world. Many familiar Swiss dealers such as Emil Storrer, Maria Wyss, René, Denise and Jean David became close friends for many years, not to mention a long list of collector buddies.

As a trouble shooter for a Swiss machine factory, Helmut was often on the road all over the world and still found time hunting for treasures by visiting galleries, antique shops and flea markets on the way.

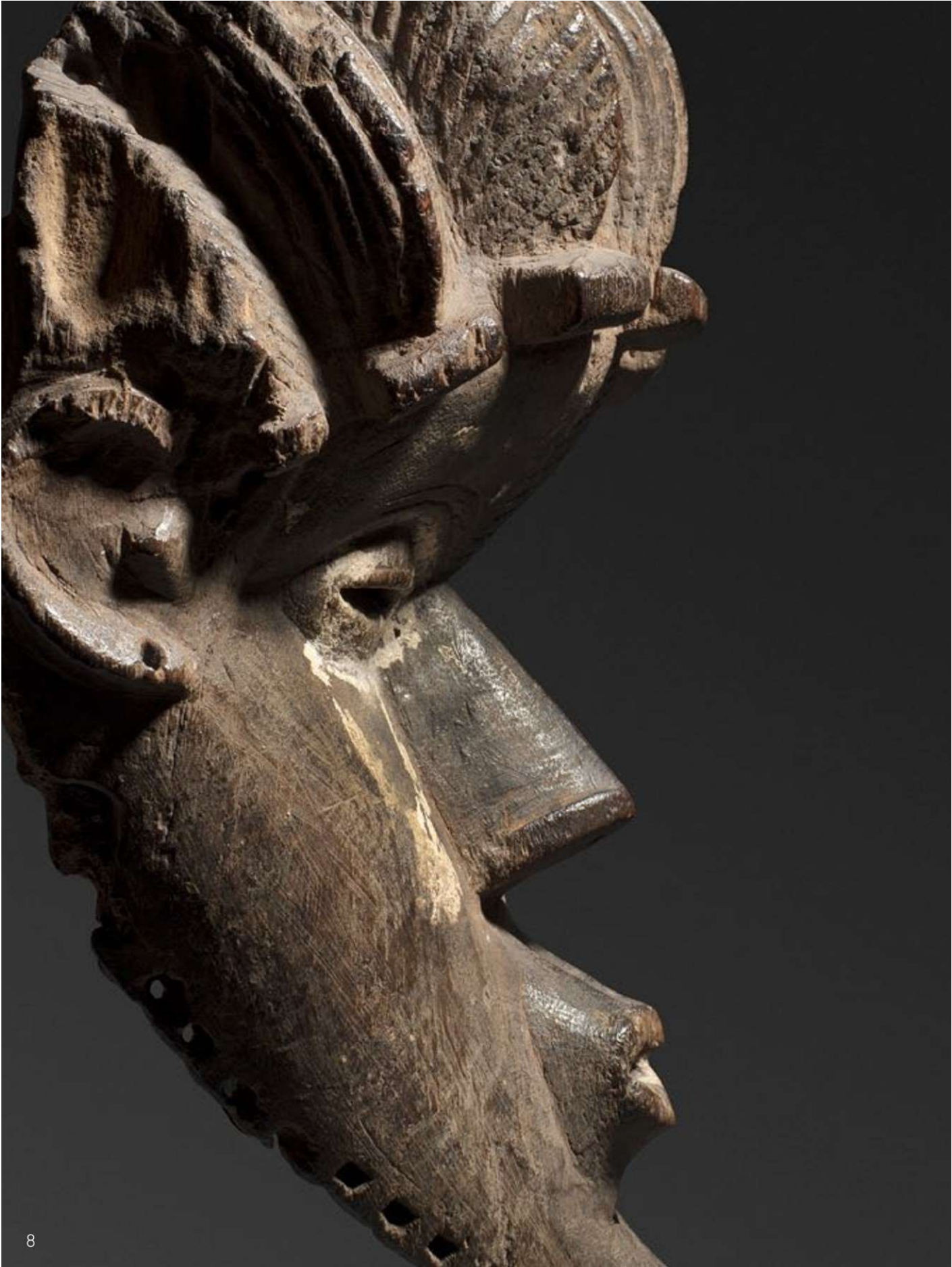
Towards the end, there was not a single square inch in Zimmer apartment that was not covered with African art. Helmut passed away two years ago. Marianne is parting with a slice of the collection hoping that these objects will bring much joy to their new owner

Rolf Korek



ARTWORKS **SELECTION**

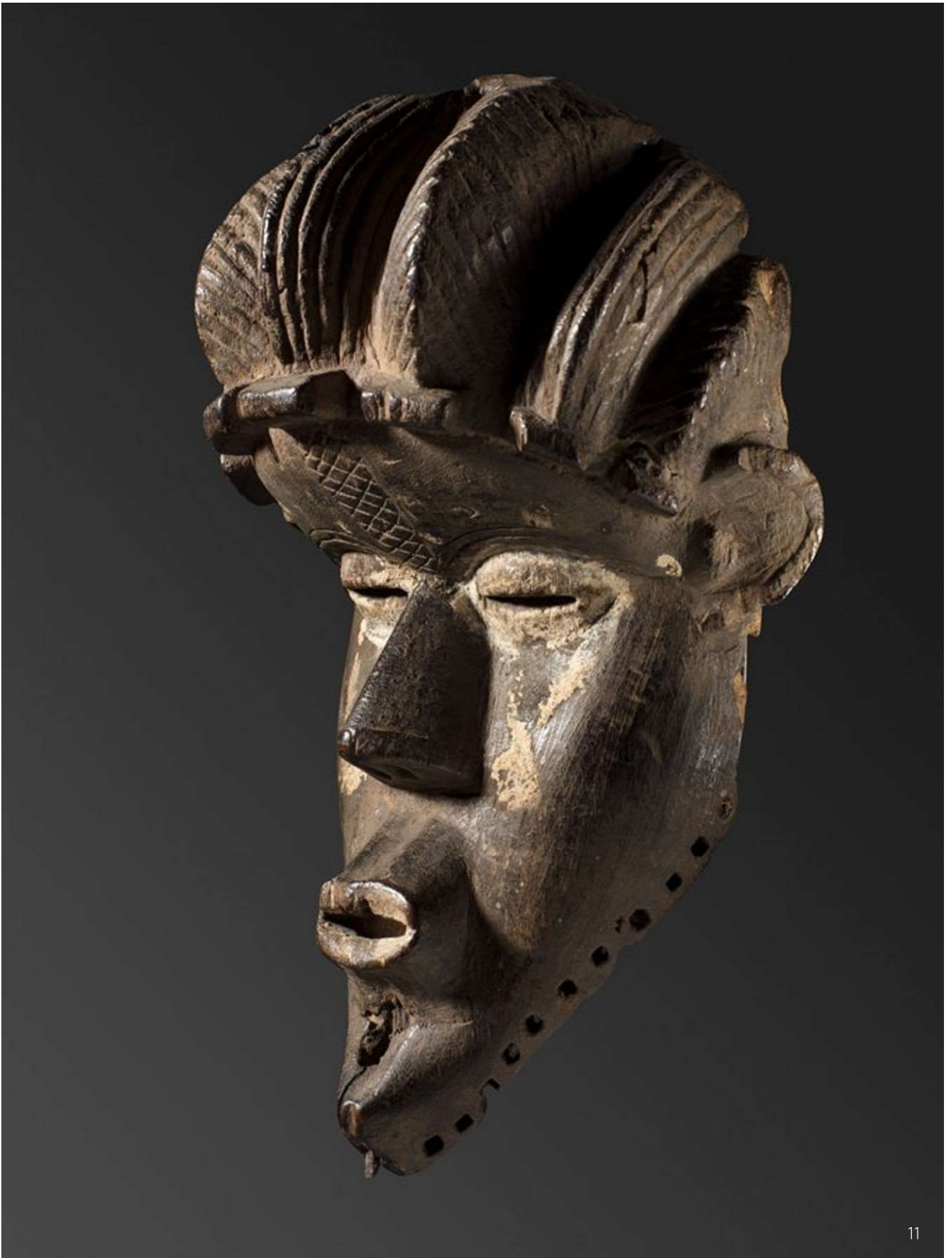
H&M ZIMMER COLLECTION



BASSA

Liberia
H. 23 cm

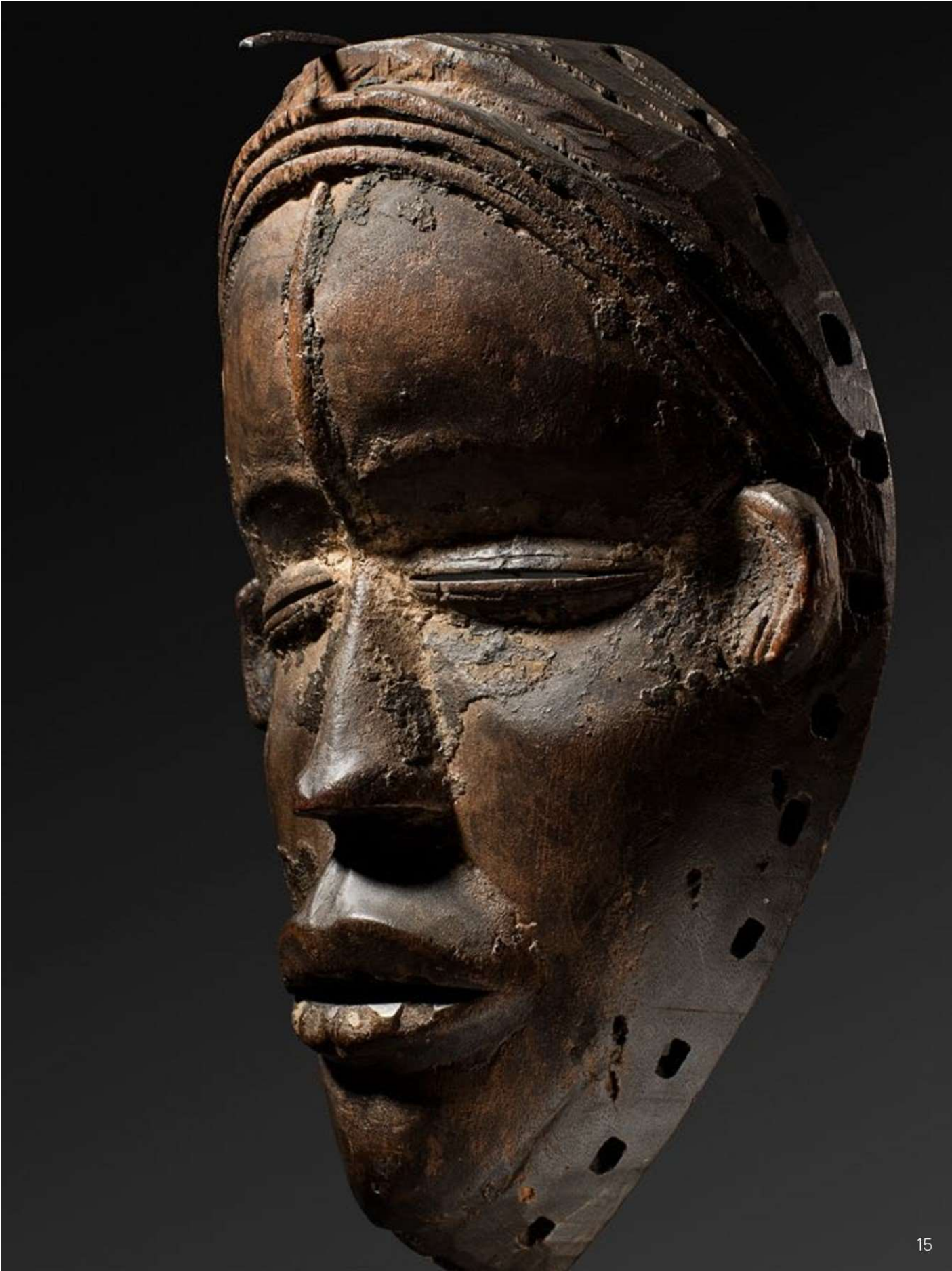






DAN/MANO

Liberia/Ivory Coast
H. 25 cm

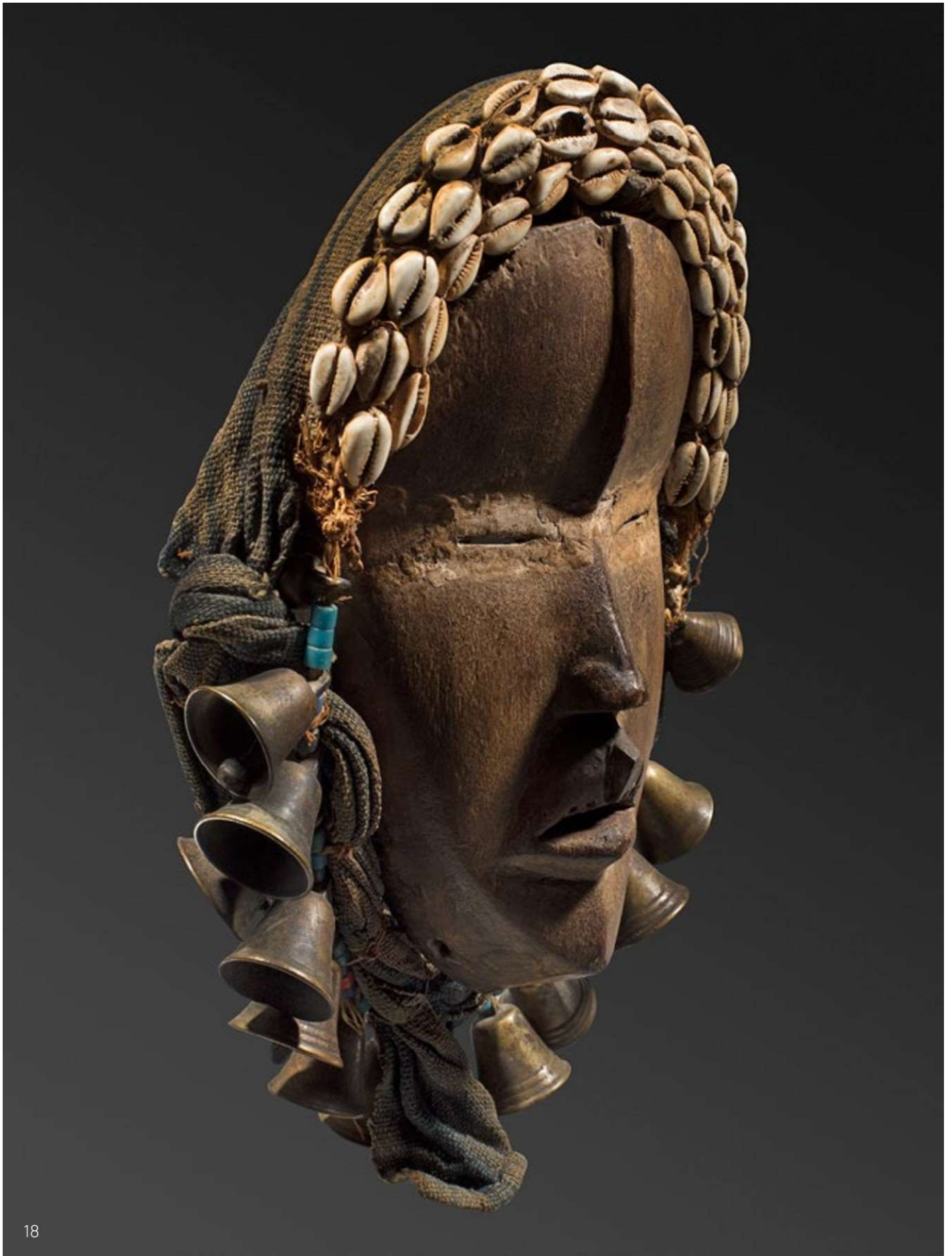


IMAGINAIRETRIBAL 2023 | 

DAN

Liberia/Ivory Coast
H. 26 cm



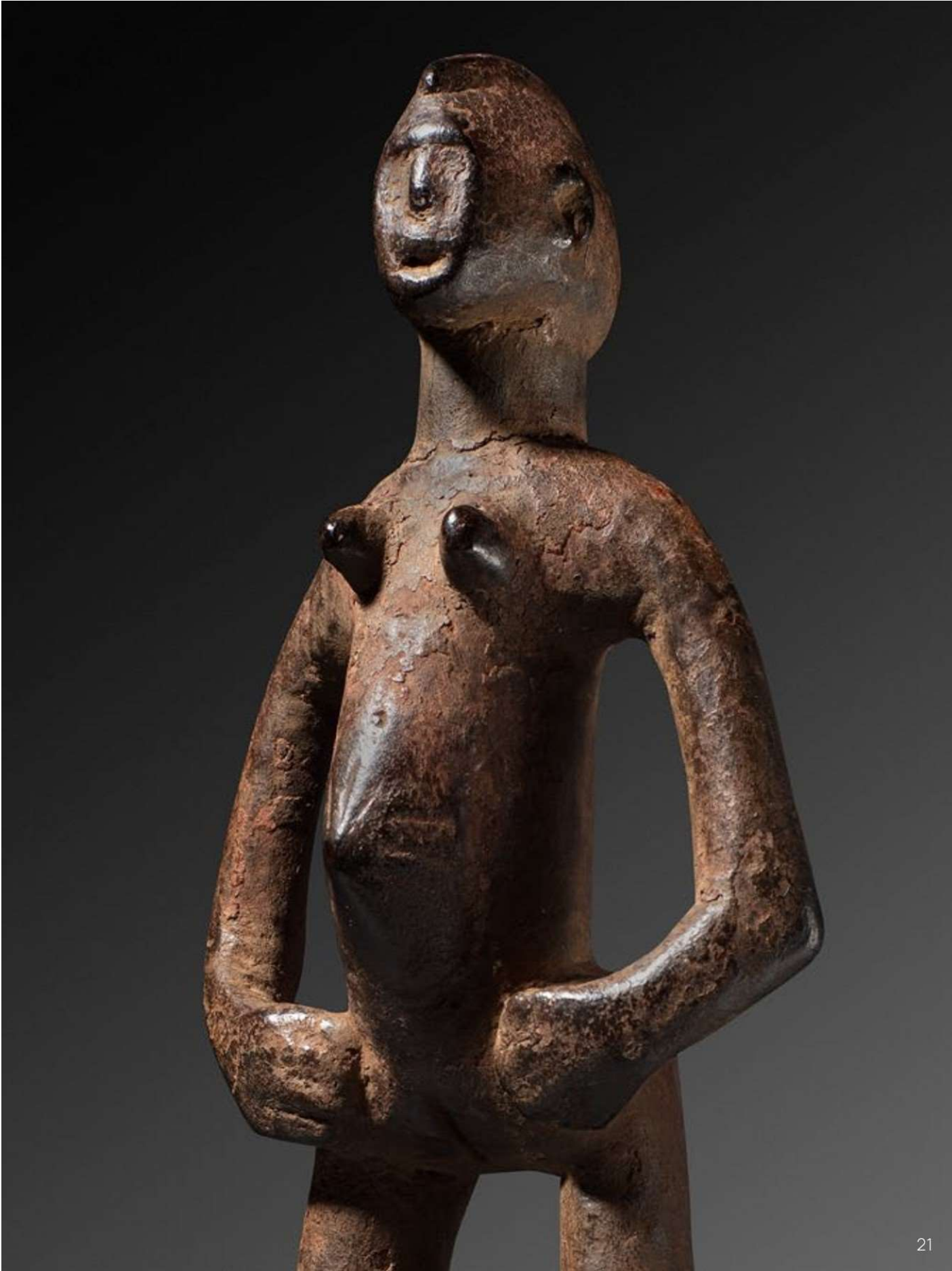




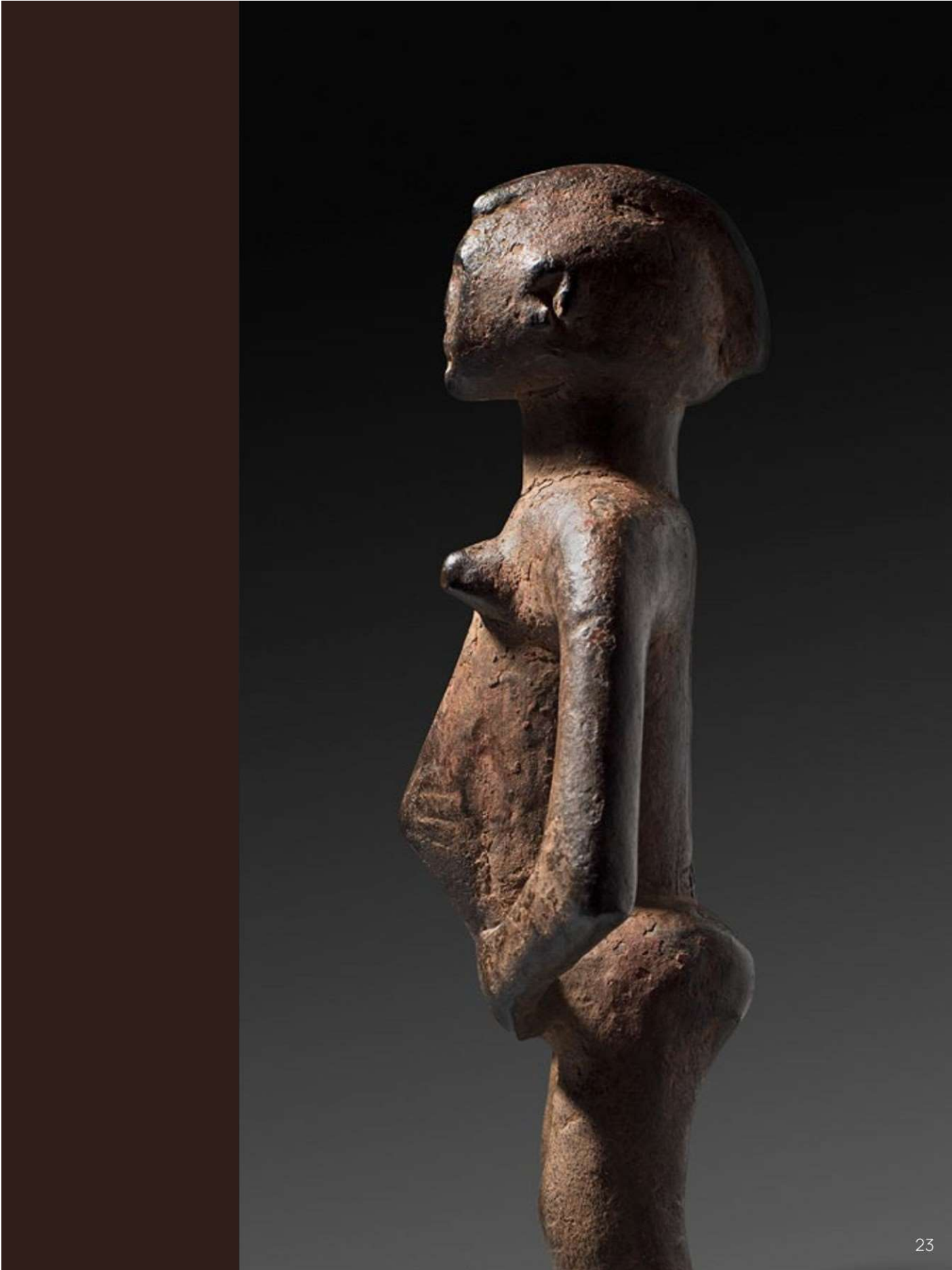
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MOSSI

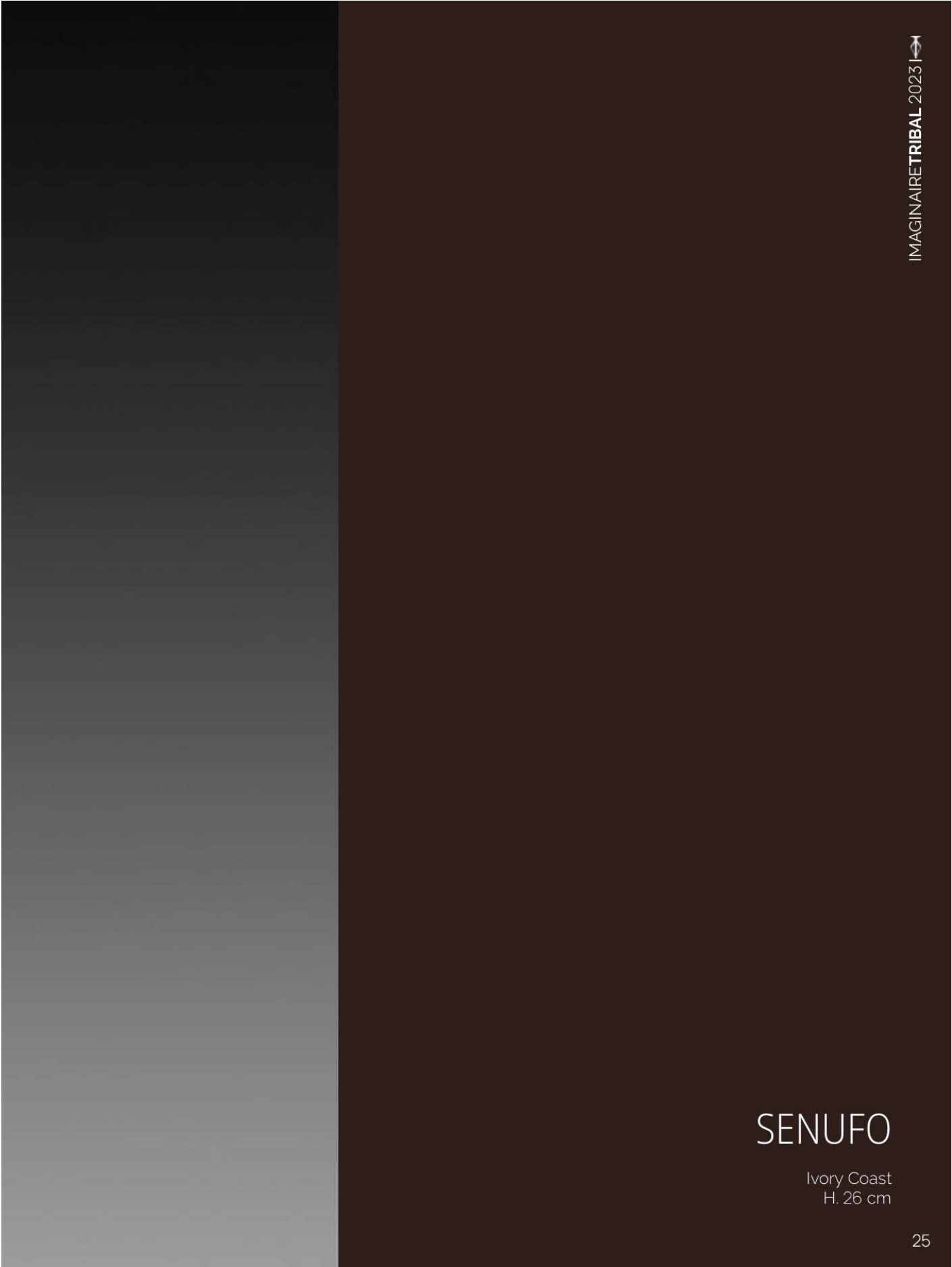
Burkina Faso
H. 32,5 cm















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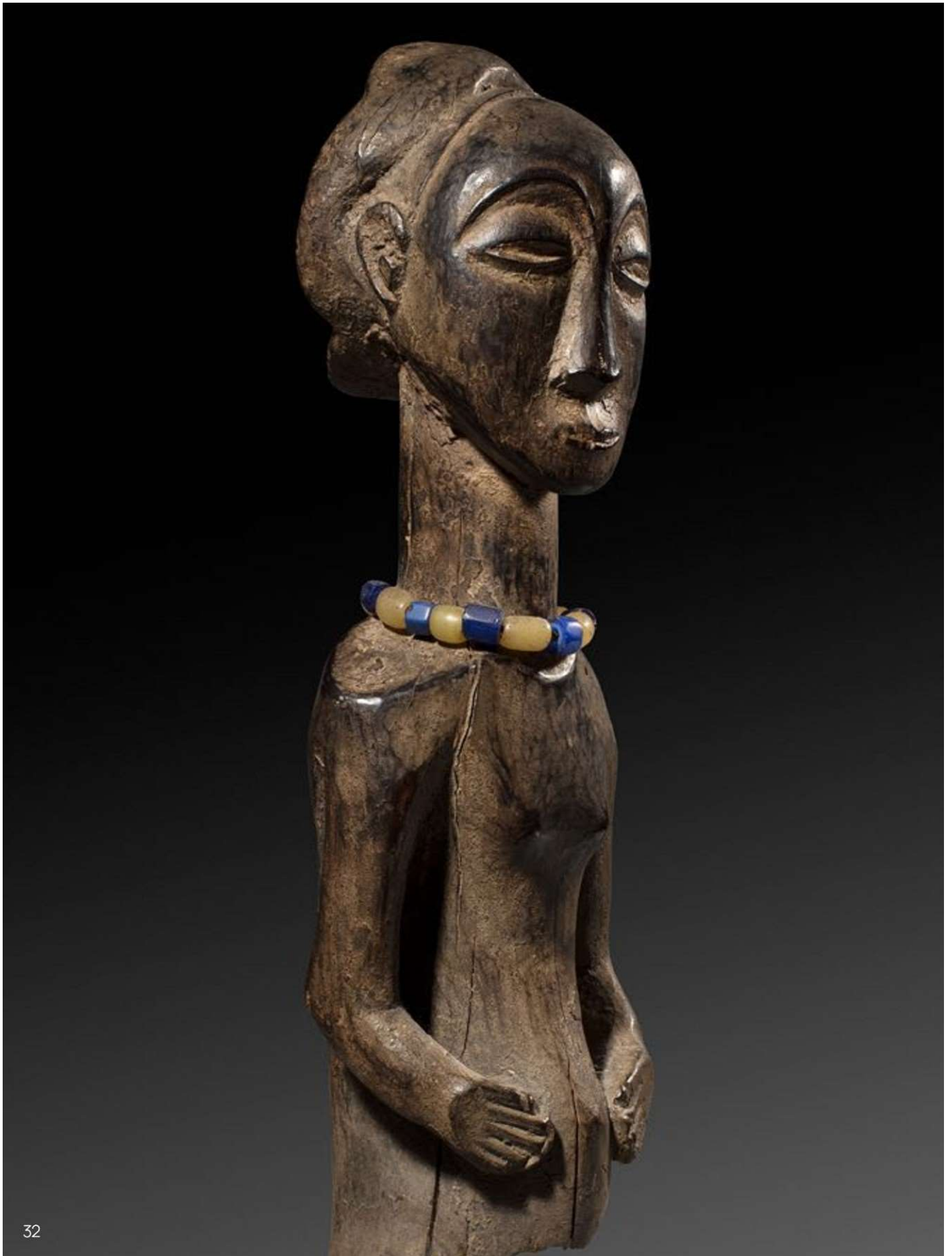
YORUBA

Nigeria
H. 55,5 cm









HEMBA

D.R. of Congo
H. 41 cm







SONGYE

D.R. of Congo
H. 24,5 cm





ARTWORKS **SELECTION**

VARIOUS COLLECTIONS

IMAGINAIRETRIBAL 2023 | 

TELLEM

Mali
H. 29 cm





IMAGINAIRETRIBAL 2023 | 

EARLY VOLTAIC

Burkina Faso/Ivory Coast
D. 20 cm







IMAGINAIRETRIBAL 2023 | 

SENUFO

Ivory Coast
H. 22 cm





BAGA

Guinea
H. 60 cm







DAN

Ivory Coast
H. 50 cm

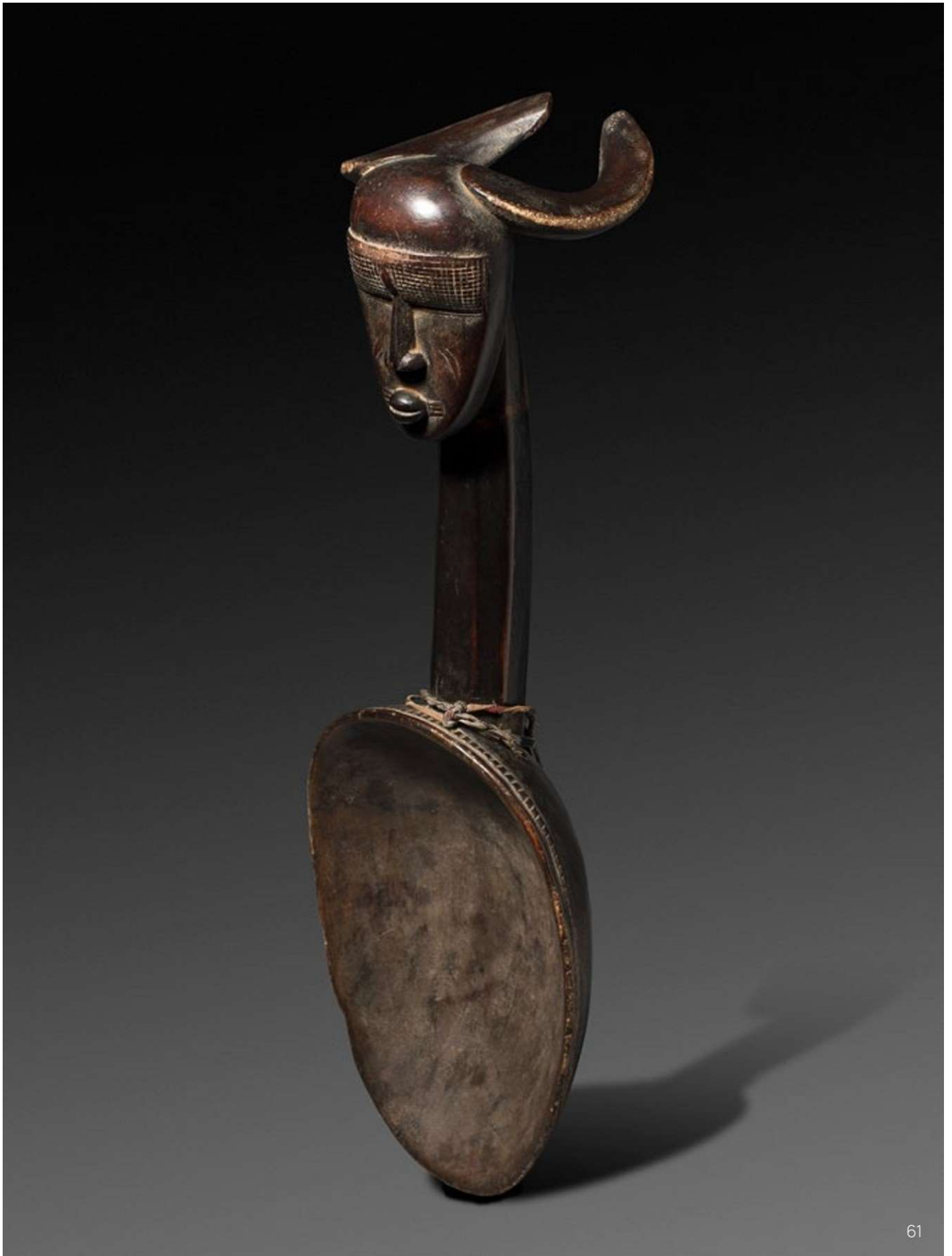




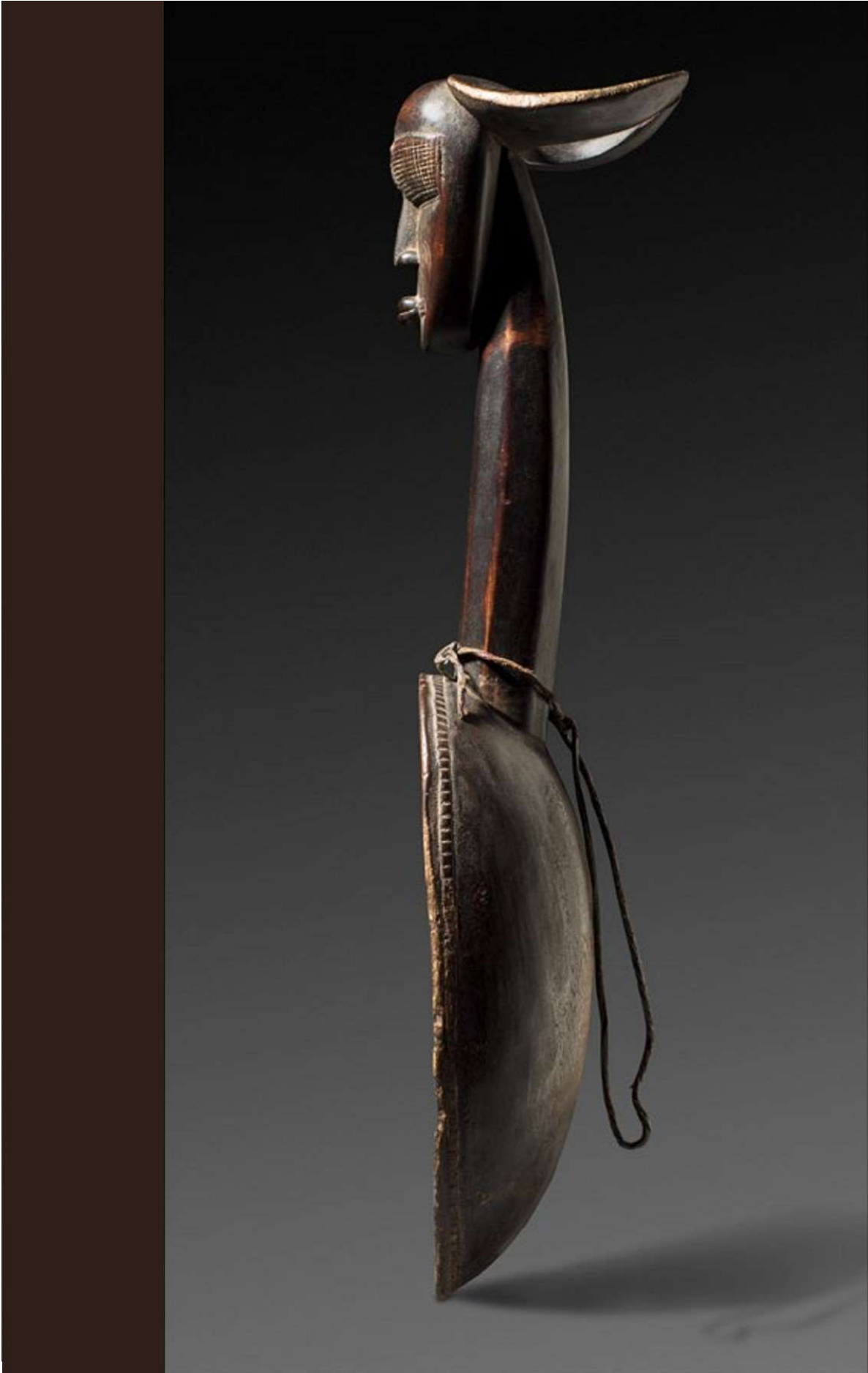
IMAGINAIRETRIBAL 2023 | 

GURO

Ivory Coast
H. 41 cm









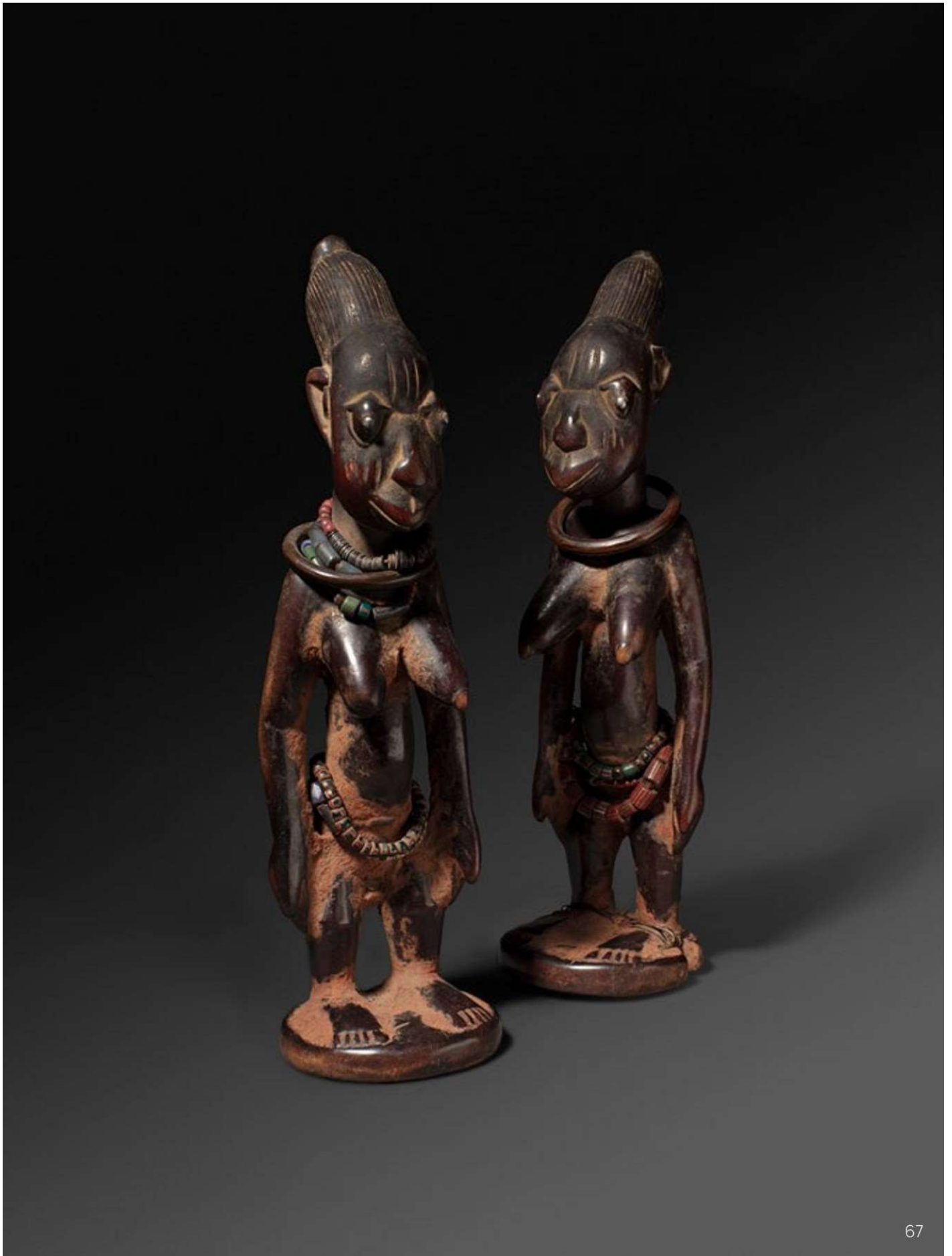


YORUBA

Nigeria
H. 27 cm

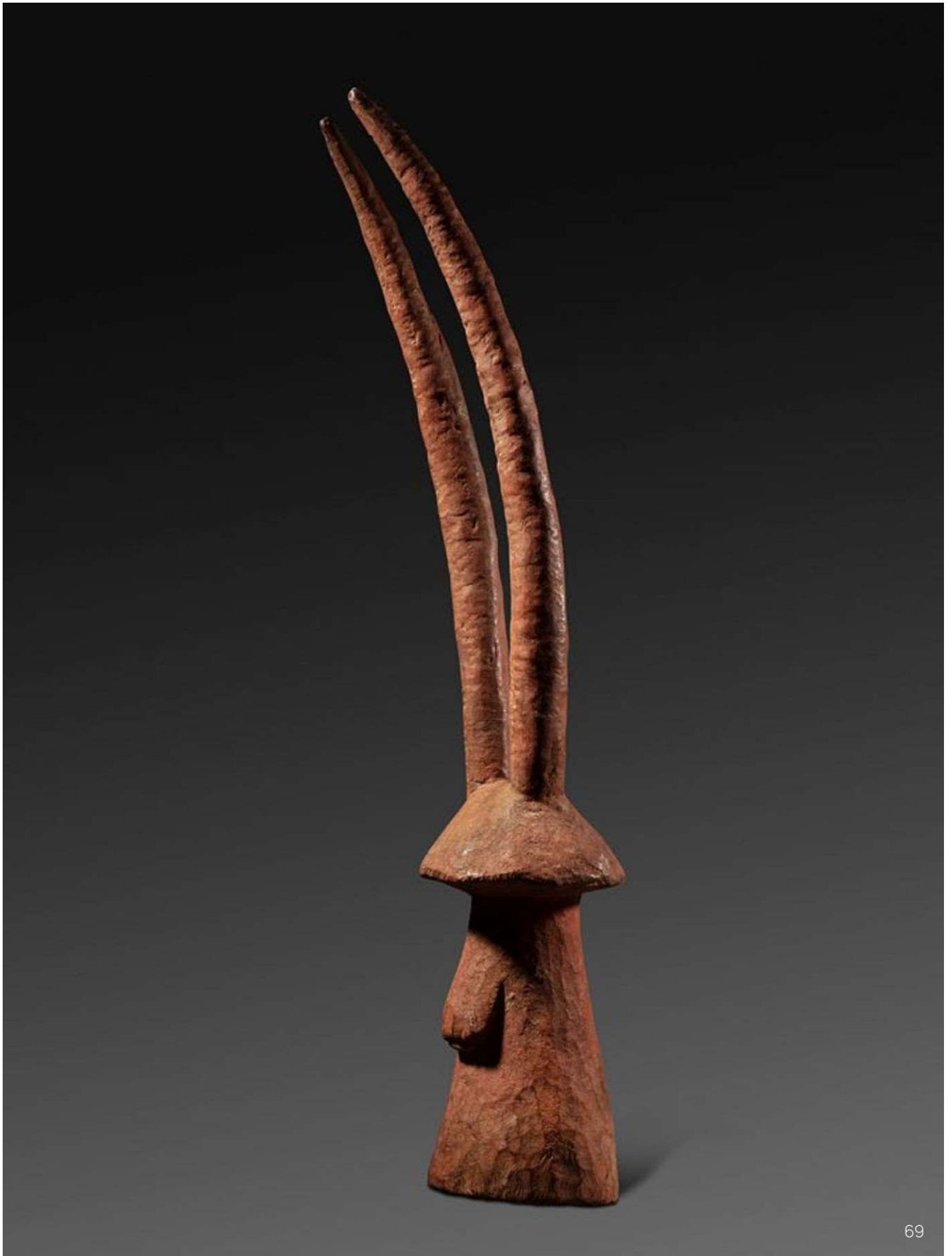
65





MAMA

Nigeria
H. 68 cm







IMAGINAIRETRIBAL 2023 | 

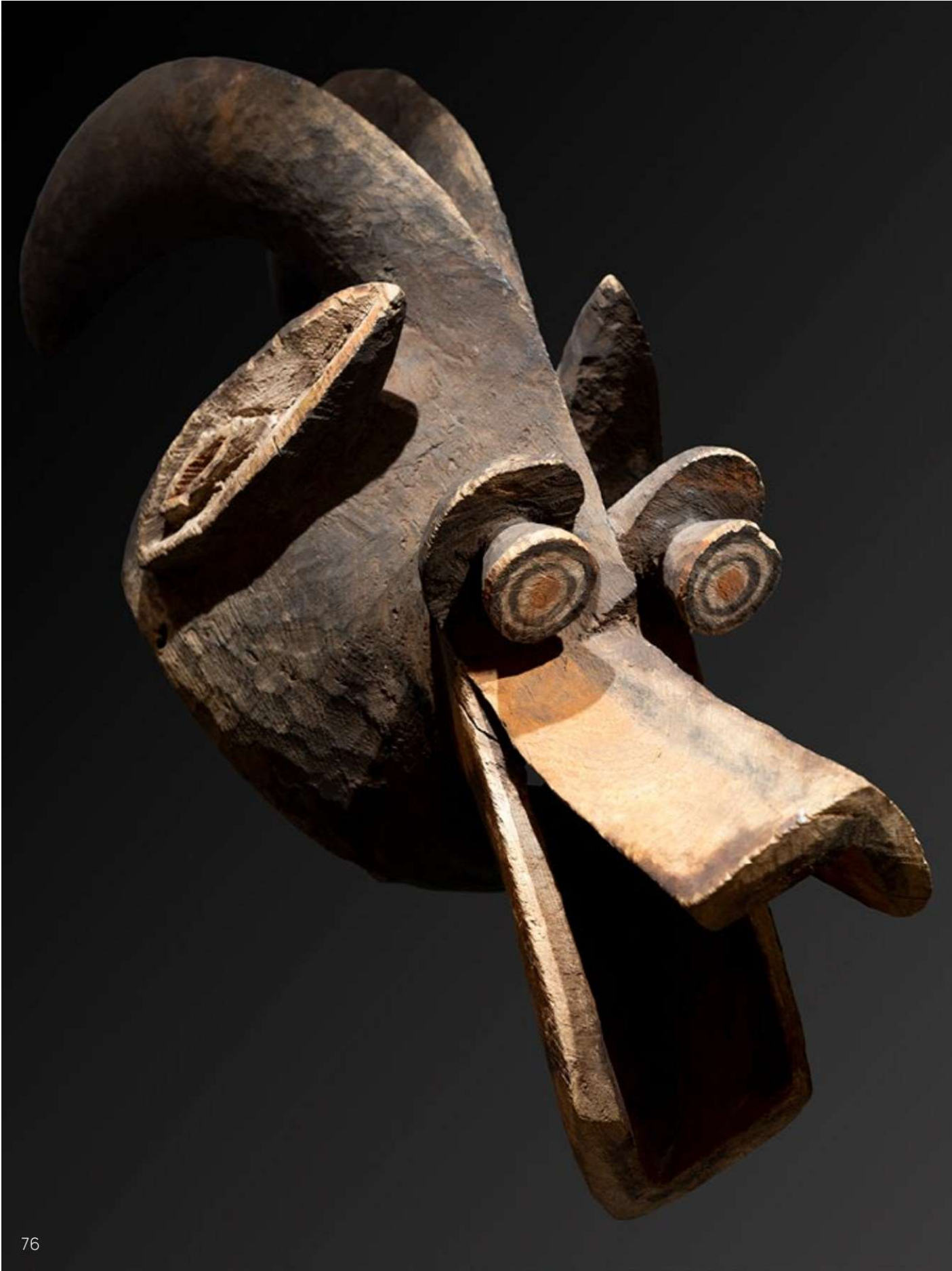
WURKUN

Nigeria
H. 40/42 cm





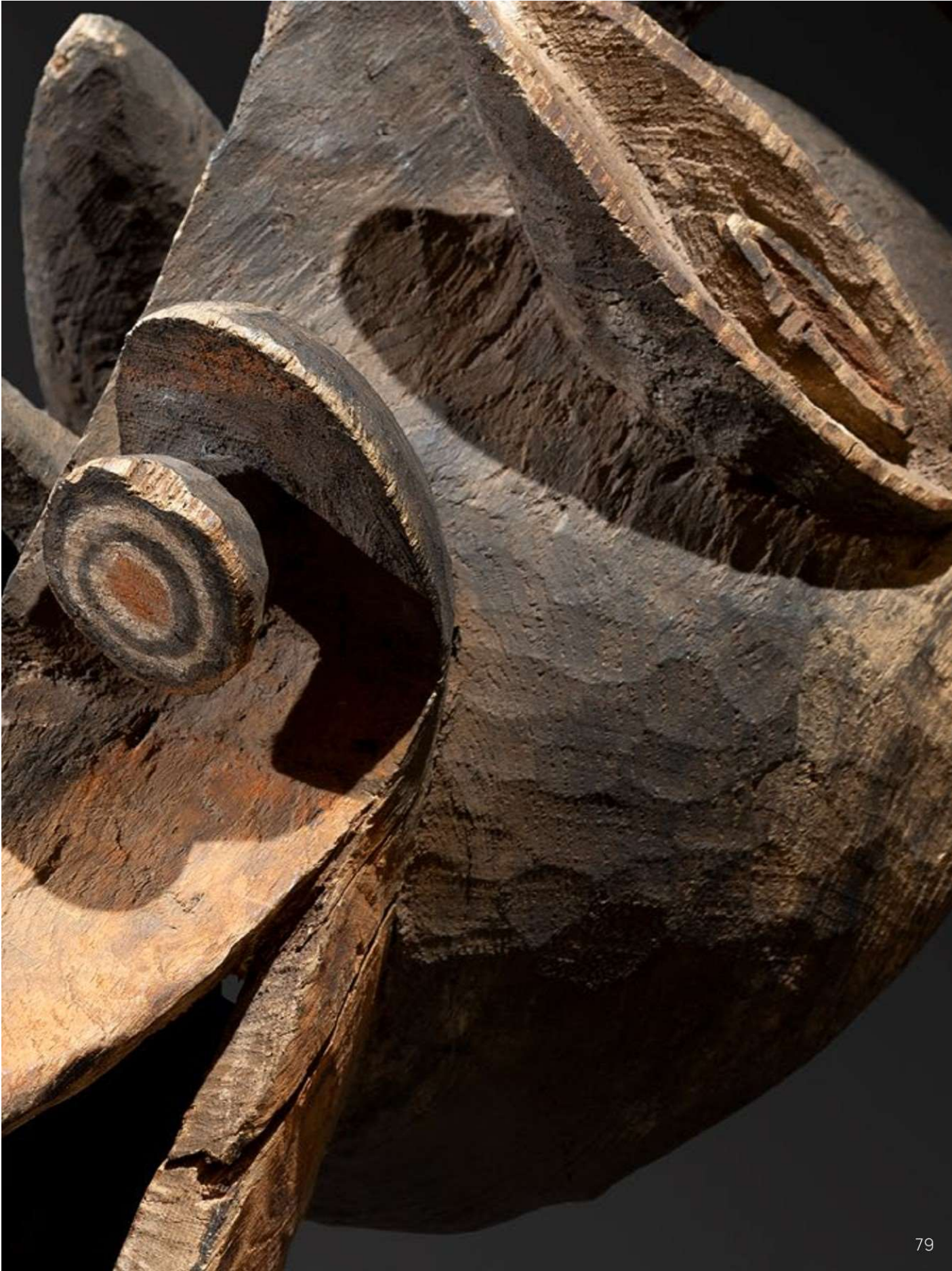




MAMBILA

Nigeria
W. 54 cm

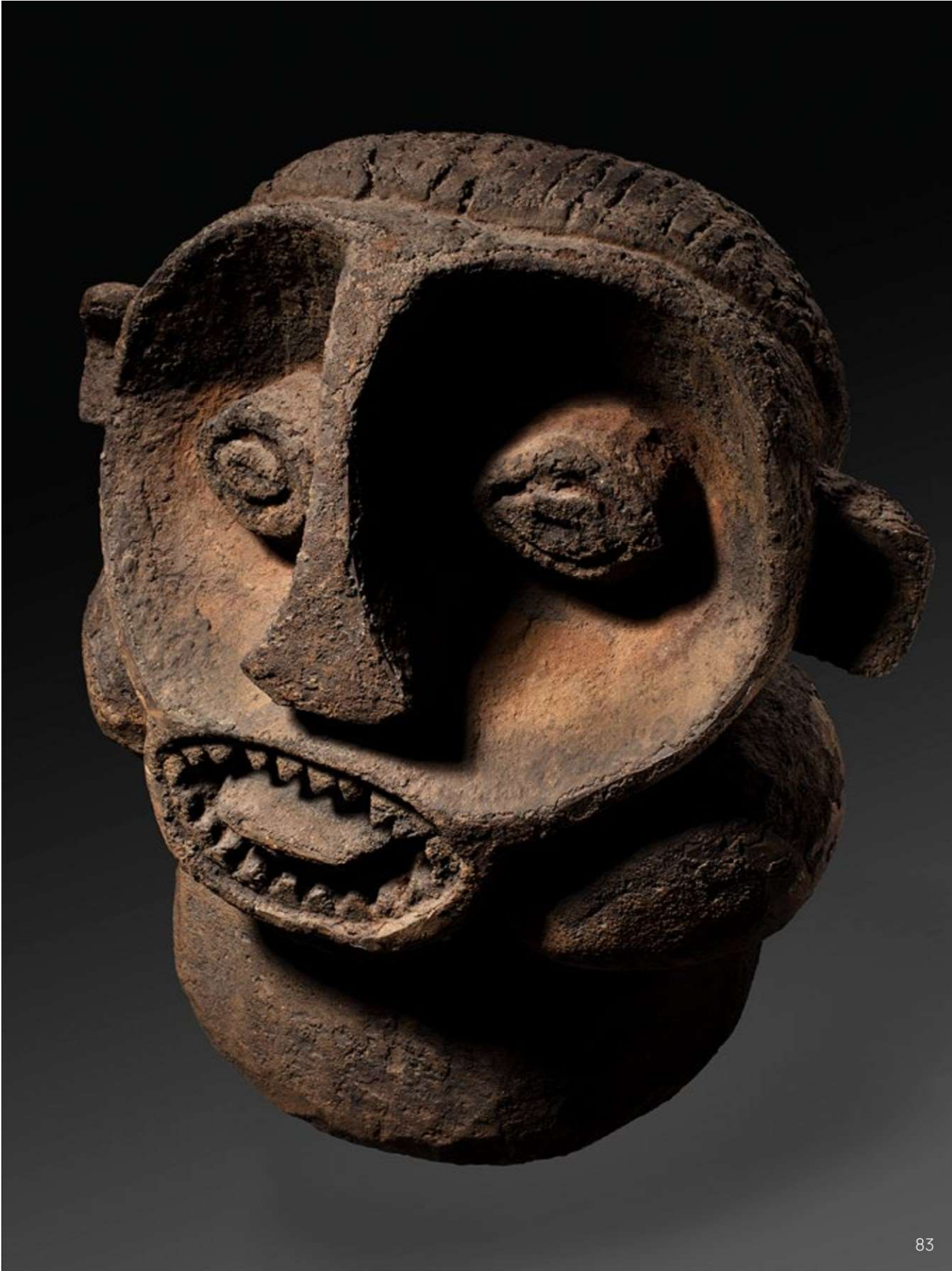


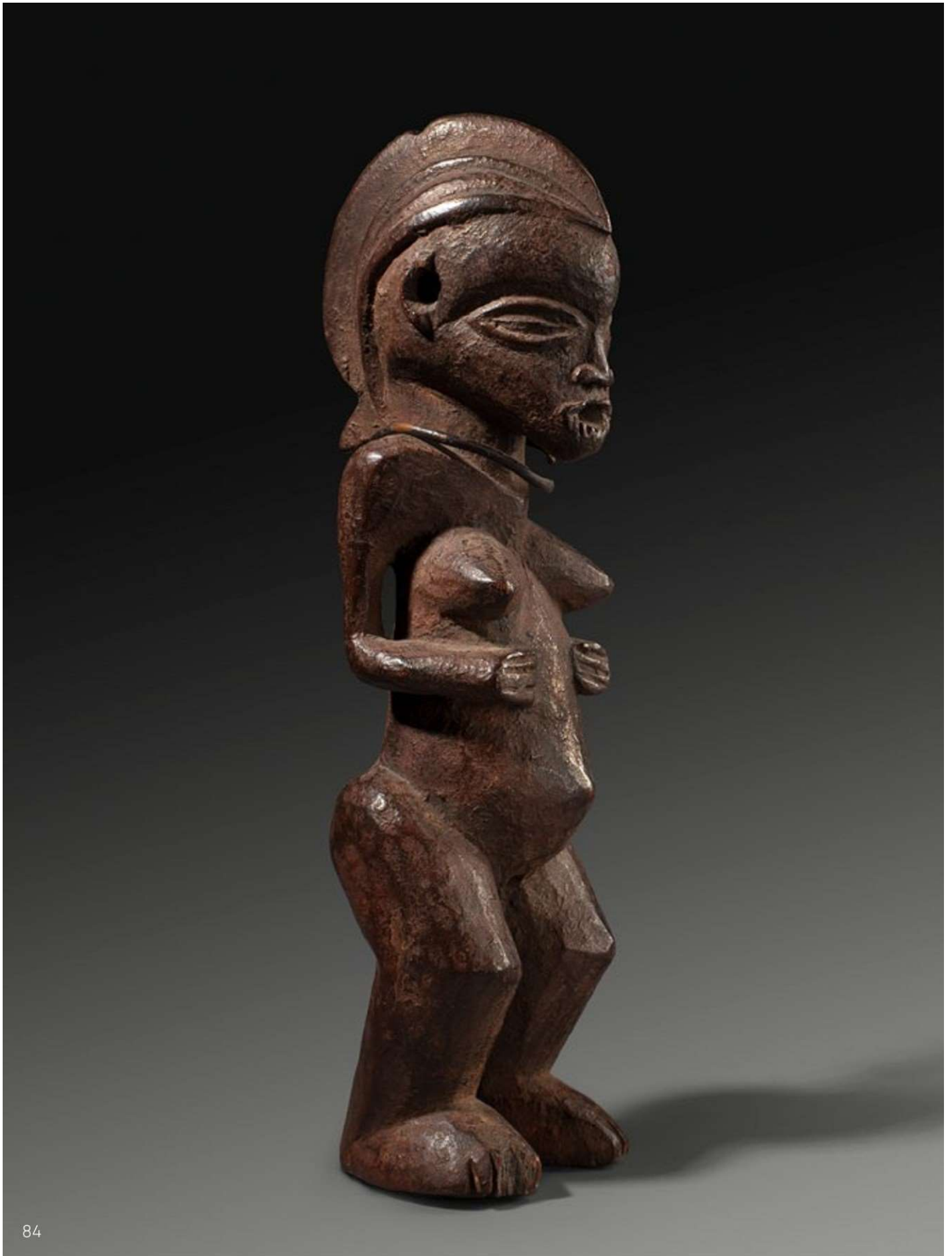




BANGWA

Cameroon
H. 35,5 cm



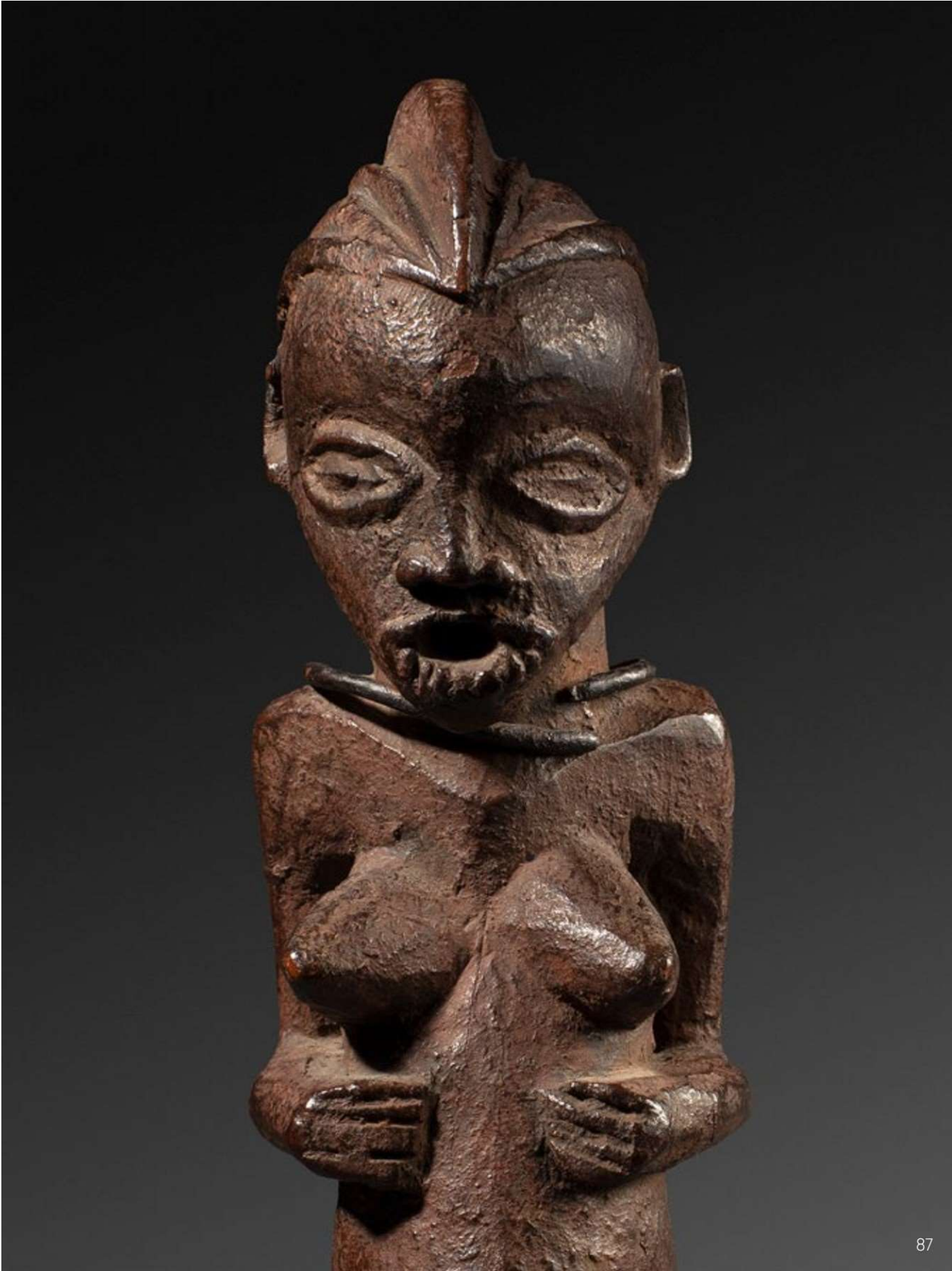




IMAGINAIRETRIBAL 2023 | 

MBALA
D.R. of Congo
H. 23,5 cm





IFUGAO

Philippines
H. 30 cm



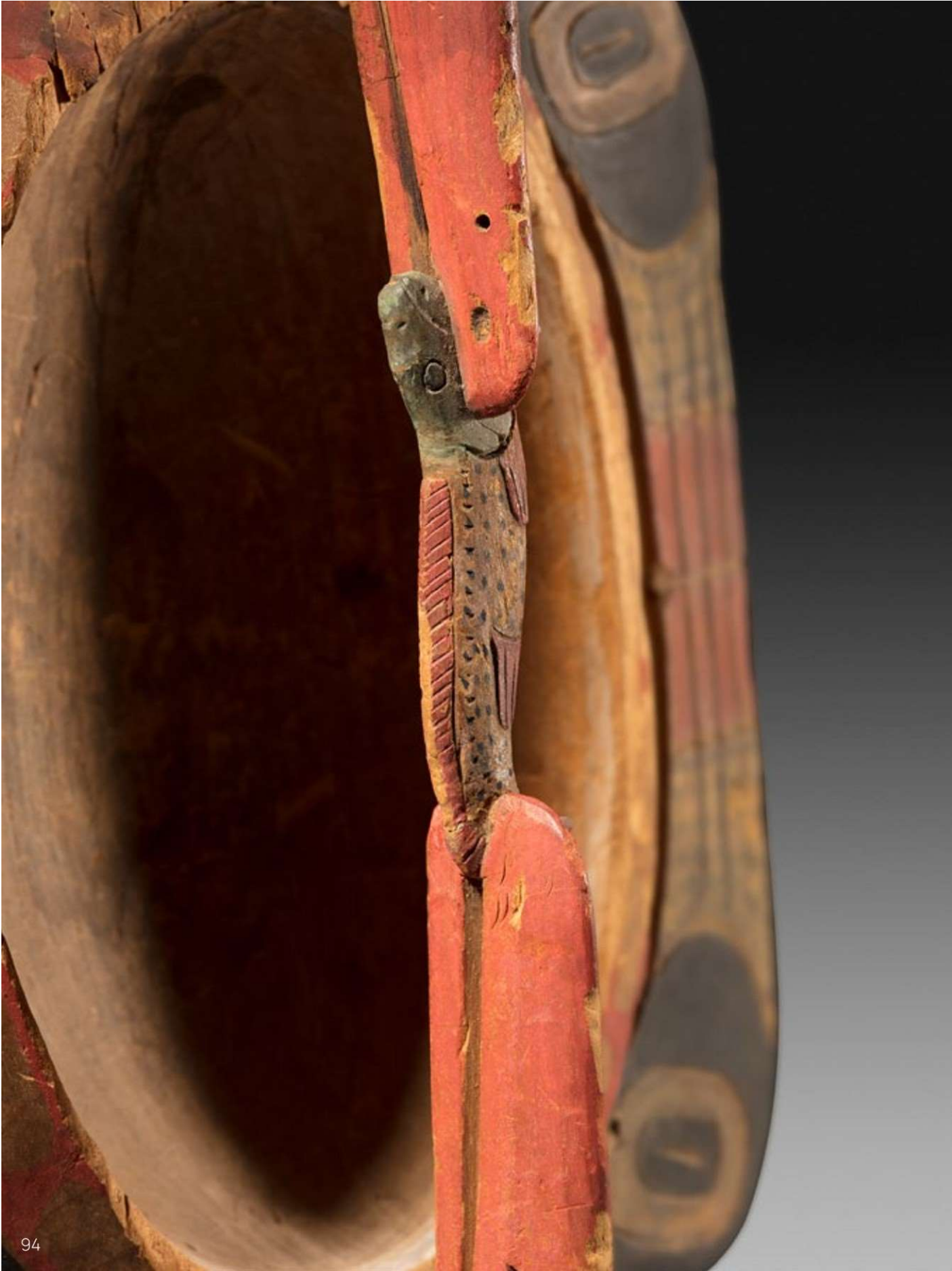




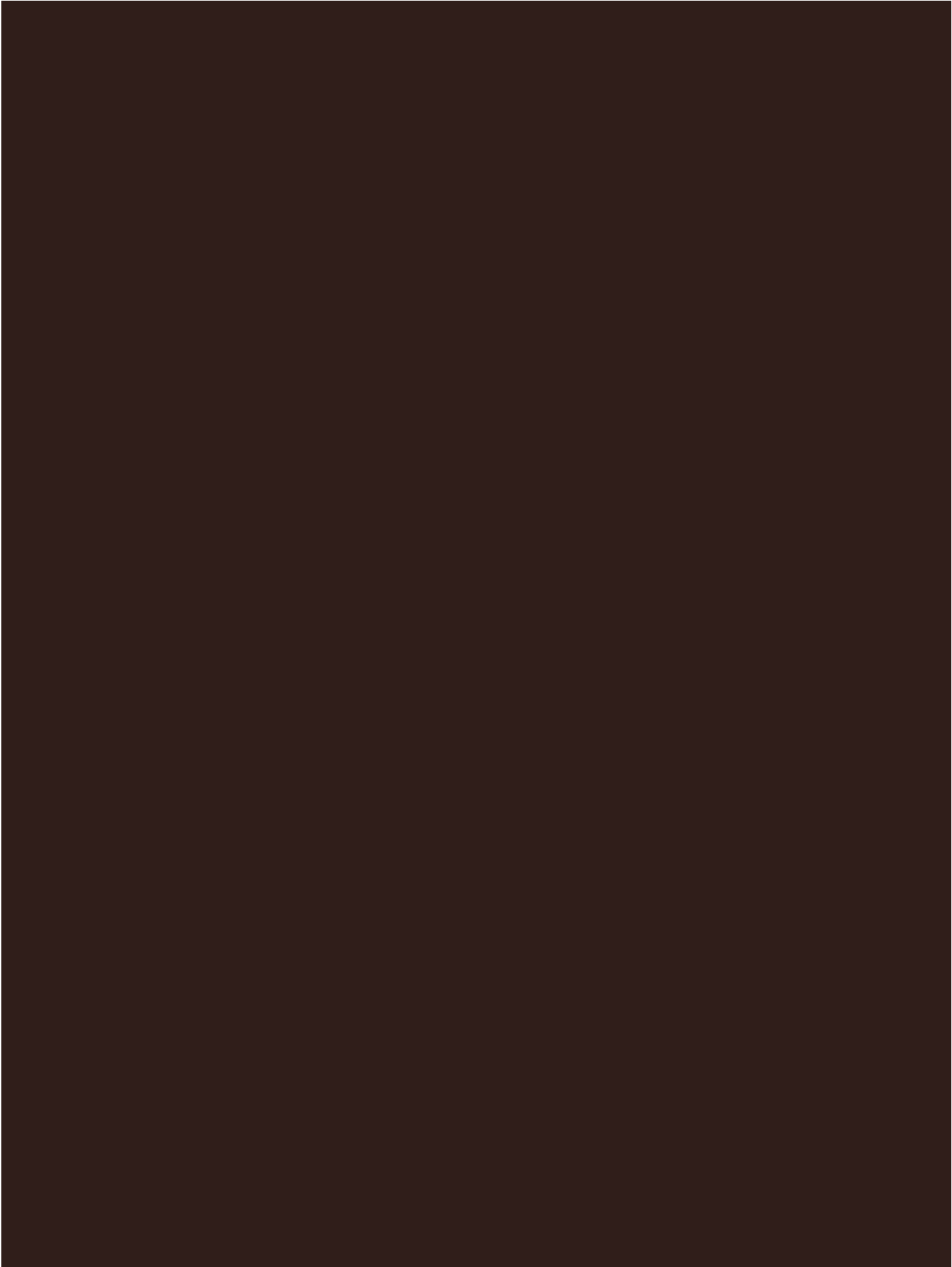


HAIDA

British Columbia
H. 36 cm







ARTWORKS INFORMATION

H&M ZIMMER COLLECTION



P. 08

Bassa
Geh-naw mask
Liberia
Wood and metal
H. 23 cm

Estimated period:
Early 20th century

Provenance:

- Mario Meneghini, Italy.
- Helmut & Marianne Zimmer Collection, Switzerland.



P. 12

Dan/Mano
Deangle or *Tankagle* mask
Liberia/Ivory Coast
Wood and metal
H. 25 cm

Estimated period:
Late 19th century -
early 20th century

Provenance:

- Helmut & Marianne Zimmer Collection, Switzerland.

Publications:

- Expo cat.: Eberhard Fischer & Hans Himmerheber. *Die Kunst der Dan*, Zürich: Museum Rietberg, 1976. P.61, #24.
- Eberhard Fischer & Hans Himmerheber. *The Arts of the Dan in West Africa*, Zürich: Museum Rietberg Zurich, 1984. #26.

Exhibitions:

- Zürich, Switzerland: "Die Kunst der Dan", Museum Rietberg, 17 October-21 November 1976.



P. 16

Dan
Deangle or *Tankagle* mask
Liberia/Ivory Coast
Wood, bells, cowries and
fabric
H. 26 cm

Estimated period:
Early 20th century

Provenance:

- Helmut & Marianne Zimmer Collection, Switzerland.

Publications:

- Expo cat.: Eberhard Fischer & Hans Himmerheber. *Die Kunst der Dan*, Zürich: Museum Rietberg, 1976. P.53, #18.
- Eberhard Fischer & Hans Himmerheber. *The Arts of the Dan in West Africa*, Zürich: Museum Rietberg Zurich, 1984. #13.
- Expo. cat.: *Afrique Noire – sculptures des Collection Privées Suisses*. Musée des Beaux-Arts La Chaux-de-Fonds, 1971. N° 302.

Exhibitions:

- Zürich, Switzerland: "Die Kunst der Dan", Museum Rietberg, 17 October-21 November 1976.
- La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland "Afrique Noire – sculptures des Collection Privées Suisses" Musée des Beaux-Arts, 1971.



P. 20

Mossi
Sculpture
Burkina Faso
Wood
H. 32,5 cm

Estimated period:
Early 20th century

Provenance:

- Helmut & Marianne Zimmer Collection, Switzerland.



P. 24

Senufo
Kpelie mask
Ivory Coast
Wood
H. 26 cm

Estimated period:
1930-1940

Provenance:

- Helmut & Marianne Zimmer Collection, Switzerland.

Publications:

- Eberhard Fischer and Homberger Lorenz, *Afrikanische Meister, Kunst der Elfenbeinküste*, Zürich: Scheidegger & Spiess, 2014. P.176, #234.
- Eberhard Fischer and Homberger Lorenz, *Les Maîtres de la sculpture de Côte d'Ivoire*, Paris: Musée du Quai Branly, 2015. P. 176, #234.

Exhibitions:

- Zürich, Switzerland, "Afrikanische Meister: Kunst der Elfenbeinküste", Museum Rietberg, 14 February-1. June 2014.
- Bonn, Germany: "Afrikanische Meister: Kunst der Elfenbeinküste", Bundeskunsthalle, 28 June - 5 October, 2014.
- Paris, France, "Les Maîtres de la sculpture de Côte d'Ivoire", Musée du quai Branly: 14 April 2015-26 July 2015.



P. 28

Yoruba
Eshu sculpture
Ibarapa Region, Oyo Area
Nigeria
Wood and beads
H. 55,5 cm

Estimated period:
19th century

Provenance:

- Probably Vittorio Mangio, Monza, Italia.
(picture in his archives)
- Helmut & Marianne Zimmer Collection, Switzerland.

Publications:

- Yoruba. *Kunst und Ästhetik in Nigeria/Yoruba: Art and Aesthetics*, Zürich: Museum Rietberg/New York: The Center for African Art, 1991:76, cat.89.
- Chemeche, George. *Eshu the Divine Trickster*. Antique Collectors' Club Ltd. Suffolk, 2013. Pag. 26-207.

Exhibitions:

- Zürich, Switzerland: "Die Kunst der Yoruba. Skulpturen aus Nigeria", Museum Rietberg, 6 Novembre 1991-8 Marzo 1992.



P. 32

Hemba
Ancestor sculpture
D.R. of Congo
Wood and glass beads
H. 41 cm

Estimated period:
19th century

Provenance:

- Helmut & Marianne Zimmer Collection, Switzerland.



P. 36

Songye
Sculpture
D.R. of Congo
Wood and metal
H. 24,5 cm

Estimated period:
Early 20th century

Provenance:

- Maria Wyss, Basel.

- Helmut & Marianne Zimmer Collection, Switzerland.

VARIOUS COLLECTIONS



P. 42

Tellem
Ancestor sculpture
Mali
Wood
H. 29 cm

Estimated period:
14th century - 16th century

Provenance:

- Private Collection, Belgium. (acquired by descendance)



P. 46

Torque
Early Voltaic
Burkina Faso/Ivory Coast
Copper alloy
D. 20 cm

Estimated period:
17th century - 19th century
CIRAM Scientific Rapport 0623-AO-650R-1

Provenance:

- Patrick Girard Collection, Lyon.



P. 50

Senufo
Sculpture
Ivory Coast
Wood
H. 22 cm

Estimated period:
Early 20th century

Provenance:

- Musée Barbier-Mueller, Switzerland (ref 1006-43)
- Javier Lentini, Spain.
- David Serra Art Tribal, Spain.
- Private Collection
- Richard Carchon, Belgium.
- Collection Dr. Pierluigi Peroni, Italy.

Publications

- Francois Neyt & Hughes Dubois, *African Sculptures and Forms*,
5 Continents Editions, Milano, Italy, 2018, fig. 72, p. 244-245.



P. 52

Baga
Zigiren-wonde helmet mask
 Guinea
 Wood and metal
 H. 60 cm

Estimated period:
 19th century - early 20th century

Provenance:

- Baron Frédéric "Freddy" Rolin (1919-2001), Belgium.
- Sotheby's New York, November 1997.
- Christie's Amsterdam, July 2002.
- Fernando Moncada, Lisbon.
- Private Collection, Portugal. (acquired in 2006)



P. 56

Dan
Lù me sculpture
 Ivory Coast
 Wood, glass beads and cloth
 H. 50 cm

Estimated period:
 First half 20th century

Provenance:

- Vittorio & Marina Mangio Collection, Monza, Italy
- Private Collection, United Kingdom. Acquired by succession.



P. 60

Guro
Iri ganä spoon
 Ivory Coast
 Wood
 H. 41 cm

Estimated period:
 First half 20th century

Provenance:

- Private Collection, United Kingdom. Acquired by succession.



P. 64

Yoruba
Ere Ibeji sculptures
 Igbomina Region
 Nigeria
 Wood
 H. 27 cm

Estimated period:
 Early 20th century

Provenance:

- Amyas Naegele, New York.
- Private Collection, New England.



P. 68

Kantana (Mama)
Mangam mask
 Northern Benue
 Nigeria
 Wood
 H. 68 cm

Estimated period:
 Early 20th century

Provenance:

- André Scholler (1929-2015), France. (until 1974)
- Loudmer-Poulain, Paris, December 1974.
- Private Collection, United Kingdom. Acquired by succession.



P. 72

Wurkun
Kundul sculptures
 Muri Mountains,
 Upper Benue
 Nigeria
 Wood and metal
 H. 40 / 42 cm

Estimated period:
 19th century

Provenance:

- Alain Dufour, France.
- Lucien Van de Velde, Belgium. (ca 1970)
- John Lens Collection, Belgium.
- Philippe Guimiot, France.
- Piet Blanckaert, Belgium. (1989)
- Van Hole Collection, Belgium.
- Private Collection, Belgium.

**P. 76**

Mambila
Nsua-Ndua mask
 Donga valley,
 Sardauna Province
 Nigeria/Cameroon
 Wood
 H. 20 cm; W. 54 cm

Estimated period:
 Early 20th century

Provenance:

- Pierre Harter (1928-1991) Collection, France.
- Blom Collection, Netherlands.
- Private Collection, Belgium.

**P. 80**

Bangwa
 Helmet mask, night mask.
 Grasslands, Fontem Valley
 Cameroon
 Wood
 H. 35,5 cm

Estimated period:
 19th century

Provenance:

- P. Guimiot, France. (Acquired in situ ca. 1960)
- Private Collection, Nice-Monaco.

**P. 84**

Mbala
Pindi sculpture
 D.R. of Congo
 Wood and metal
 H. 23,5 cm

Estimated period:
 19th century

Provenance:

- Baron Frédéric "Freddy" Rolin (1919-2001) Collection, Belgium.
- Alain de Monbrison, France.
- Alberto Costa Romero de Tejada Collection, Spain.
- J.R. Pons Collection, Spain.
- Ana y Antonio Casanovas, Spain.
- Javier Lentini Collection, Spain.

Publications:

- Expo cat.: Costa, A., *Africa; la figura imaginada*, Fundació "la Caixa", Barcelona, 2004, P.141, #106.



P. 88

Ifugao
Ladle
Philippines
Wood
H. 30 cm

Estimated period:
19th century

Provenance:
- Paul & Jeri Harris Collection, Washington.



P. 92

Haida
Ceremonial bowl
British Columbia
polychrome Wood
H. 36 cm

Estimated period:
Late 19th century

Provenance:
- Jeffrey Myers Collection, New York. (acquired in Sotheby's NYC)

HELMUT & MARIANNE ZIMMER COLLECTION

French translation

Helmut Zimmer a commencé à collectionner l'art africain très jeune dans les années 1950. Il a commencé avec des armes qui ont conduit à la collection probablement la plus complète d'armes africaines en Suisse. À ces débuts, il rencontre sa future épouse Marianne, qui partagera fidèlement sa passion pour le reste de sa vie.

La frénésie de collection des Zimmer s'est rapidement fait connaître et leur petit appartement à Zurich s'est transformé en un lieu de rencontre populaire pour les collectionneurs, les marchands et les gens des musées de Suisse et de l'étranger. Ils n'étaient pas seulement des collectionneurs dévoués mais aussi des hôtes hospitaliers appréciant de partager leur amour pour l'art africain. Helmut était une personne humble et généreuse, toujours serviable et désireuse de prêter ses objets pour des expositions dans des musées du monde entier. De nombreux revendeurs suisses familiers tels qu'Emil Storrer, Maria Wyss, René, Denise et Jean David sont devenus des amis proches pendant de nombreuses années, sans parler d'une longue liste de copains collectionneurs.

En tant que dépanneur pour une usine de machines suisse, Helmut était souvent sur la route partout dans le monde et trouvait encore du temps à la recherche de trésors en visitant des galeries, des antiquaires et des marchés aux puces en cours de route.

Vers la fin, il n'y avait pas un seul centimètre carré dans l'appartement de Zimmer qui n'était pas couvert d'art africain. Helmut est décédé il y a deux ans. Marianne se sépare d'une tranche de la collection en espérant que ces objets apporteront beaucoup de joie à leurs nouveaux propriétaires.

Rolf Korek

Spanish translation

Helmut Zimmer comenzó a coleccionar arte africano a una edad muy temprana en la década de 1950. Comenzó con las armas que condujeron probablemente a la colección más completa de armas africanas en Suiza. En estos primeros días conoció a su futura esposa Marianne, quien compartió fielmente su pasión por el resto de su vida.

El frenesí coleccionista de Zimmer pronto se hizo conocido y su pequeño apartamento en Zúrich se convirtió en un popular lugar de encuentro para coleccionistas, marchantes y gente de museos de Suiza y del extranjero. No solo eran coleccionistas dedicados, sino también anfitriones hospitalarios que disfrutaban compartir su amor por el arte africano. Helmut era una persona humilde y generosa, siempre servicial y deseoso de prestar sus objetos para exposiciones en museos de todo el mundo. Muchos comerciantes suizos conocidos, como Emil Storrer, Maria Wyss, René, Denise y Jean David, se hicieron amigos cercanos durante muchos años, sin mencionar una larga lista de amigos coleccionistas.

Como solucionador de problemas para una fábrica de maquinaria suiza, Helmut viajaba a menudo por todo el mundo y todavía encontraba tiempo para buscar tesoros visitando galerías, tiendas de antigüedades y mercadillos en el camino.

Hacia el final, no había un solo centímetro cuadrado en el apartamento de Zimmer que no estuviera cubierto con arte africano. Helmut falleció hace dos años. Marianne se despidió de una parte de la colección con la esperanza de que estos objetos traigan mucha alegría a sus nuevos dueños.

Rolf Korek

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